



SPACE GENERATION ADVISORY COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS
PROGRAMME ON SPACE APPLICATIONS

SGAC Statement at the
61st Session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Agenda Item 4
General Exchange of Views

Presented by:
Nikol Koleva, SGAC Executive Director

Thank you, Madame Chair.



At the outset of this 61st session, the Space Generation Advisory Council, SGAC, would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and assure you of our full support, while also expressing our gratitude to Ambassador Juan Francisco Facetti for his able guidance throughout the previous meetings. We further would like to congratulate Ms. Aarti Holla-Maini on her appointment as Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs and express our high appreciation for the excellent work of the Secretariat in preparation of this session.

Distinguished Delegates, as SGAC's newly appointed Executive Director, it is an honour for me to present an overview of our network's recent endeavours. SGAC is, and always has been, a dynamic hub for students and young space professionals aged 18 to 35, to actively engage with the United Nations, space agencies, industry partners, and academia. Due to the dedication of our members, staff, partners and sponsors, we are thrilled to report a successful 2023 and a promising start to 2024. Our organisation's growth remains steadfast, now boasting a membership of over 28,000 individuals spanning over 165 countries. SGAC's reach continues to grow exponentially and our mission and goals remain steadfast.

We are proud to report that in 2023, SGAC successfully hosted 3 Global events, 17 Regional and Local events in all parts of the world, and numerous online activities, including webinars, workshops, and research projects. In addition to this, thanks to the fantastic support of our partners and sponsors SGAC was able to award over 160 scholarships to our members to participate in key space events worldwide. These initiatives demonstrate SGAC's global reach and our drive to promote diversity and inclusivity within the space community. As we continue into 2024, we are already immersed in planning our upcoming events and eagerly anticipate another year of impactful contributions to the space sector. In this context, we look forward to our continued collaboration with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs and its honourable subcommittees.

Looking forward, we thank Chair Mr. Hamza Hameed (Pakistan) for his leadership of our network from 2022-2024. As his term ends, we are preparing to elect a new Co-Chair to support Dr. Antonino Salmeri (Italy), our incoming Chair on April 1st, 2024. Honourable delegates, in pursuit of our strategic objectives, SGAC is proud to announce the establishment of two new permanent staff positions within our team in Vienna. This initiative aligns with our overarching goals, focusing on increased engagement with developing space communities, enhanced internal processes, and forging new partnerships and collaborations. In consideration of these goals we have recently appointed a Business Development Officer who



commenced duties in January, and we are actively inviting applications for a Continued Improvement Officer. We encourage all delegations to share this opportunity with young professionals within your own space communities.

In 2024, SGAC will continue its ongoing initiatives to towards enhancing our internal infrastructure and governance protocols. This will enable further growth and expansion of our network in a sustainable manner. SGAC will continue its internally funded Global Rising Star Awards program, which has been ongoing since 2021 to award students and young professionals from different parts of the world to participate in global space-industry activities.

With the unwavering support of our Space Generation Advocacy and Policy Platform, we continue to annually develop impactful reports outlining the united policy position on key issues for our shared future in space. In connection with the upcoming Summit of the Future, in our newest report, we propose an “Intergenerational Pact for Space Sustainability” to foster unity within the global space community for a safe and sustainable space environment. To know more about this effort, we kindly invite all Distinguished Delegations to consult Conference Room Paper nr. 13 and join us for a side event on Space-Youth-Future Generations organised in collaboration with the Austrian Government and the Office for Outer Space Affairs. The side event will take place in Room M2 on the 7th of February at 6 pm CET and will be followed by networking with light refreshments.

In conclusion, esteemed Chair and distinguished Delegates, SGAC has experienced notable growth in the past year, a testament to the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and the unwavering support from our esteemed international partners and sponsors, which include Lockheed Martin, NASA, the Space Foundation, Blue Origin’s Club for the Future, Northrop Grumman, the UK Space Agency, the European Space Agency, the German Aerospace Centre (DLR), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the French Space Agency (CNES), the International Astronautical Federation, Planet, Euroconsult, Airbus, and others.

We are grateful for the opportunity to address this Honourable Subcommittee and stand ready to work together with all Member States and Observers to foster the peaceful, sustainable and cooperative uses of space for the benefit of all humanity, present and future.

I thank you for your kind attention!